



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on the Closing of the Independent Tajik Language Newspaper “Nerui Sukhan”**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 28, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States notes with regret that on July 13, Tajik authorities once again closed the independent Tajik language newspaper “Nerui Sukhan”.

Coming only a week after authorities had allowed the newspaper to resume printing, this latest development is particularly perplexing and disappointing. It further casts doubt on Tajikistan’s will to uphold its OSCE commitments to media freedom and democracy.

The United States urges Tajikistan to take immediate steps to uphold its OSCE commitment to support media freedoms in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Budapest Summit of 1994, and to refrain from taking actions that restrict or inhibit those freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.